

**Virginia Department of Health  
Pandemic Influenza Weekly Report #37  
December 18, 2006**

**WORLDWIDE UPDATE**

- The World Health Organization did not post any updates this week on the impact of H5N1 influenza on humans. The human case count stands at 258, including 154 deaths (59.7%).

**VDH ACTIVITIES – Central Office**

- No weekly activity reports will be published over the holidays. The next report will be released on January 8, 2007.
- VDEM conducted a multi-agency PanFlu Plan Development Meeting.
- VDH has formed a PanFlu, Antiviral Distribution Planning Group. Will conduct 1<sup>st</sup> meeting on 12/21.
- The next meeting of the Virginia Pandemic Influenza Advisory Committee will be held on Tuesday, January 9, 2007, from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM.
- Office of Drinking Water (ODW) will host a Drinking Water PanFlu Summit on Jan. 31-Feb. 1 in Winchester. Audience will include Region III (VA, PA, MD, DE, WV) state ODW representatives. Desired outcome is to create ODW PanFlu template for Continuity of Operations issues.
- VDH Deputy Commissioner for Emergency Preparedness and Response and Steven Gravely of Troutman Sanders met with representatives of hospital ethics committees throughout Virginia to address the ethical implications of allocation of scarce resources during a pandemic of influenza. The meeting was coordinated by the Institute for Practical Ethics and Public Life at the University of Virginia and was held at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville. Discussion focused on decisions for allocation of scarce medical resources by hospitals and healthcare providers during a pandemic of influenza or any other healthcare emergency. Steven Gravely presented the work of the Altered Standards of Care Work Group of the Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association (VHHA), which resulted in development of a Critical Resource Shortage Planning Guide. The Planning Guide was distributed to meeting participants and feedback solicited. The group decided that they should have a follow-up meeting in the next few months to further discuss these issues, as well as the role of the Planning Guide.
- Health Districts and EP&R Regions continue community outreach and coordinated PanFlu planning (refer to attached VDH Pandemic Flu Activities Progress Report).

## VDH Pandemic Flu Activities Progress Report

### **VDH ACTIVITIES – Health District Reports**

- **Alexandria**
  - Met with Superintendent of Schools to facilitate joint pandemic planning. Made presentation to a leading civic association in City to discuss PanFlu preparedness.
  - Met with small business group to do the same.
- **Chesterfield**
  - Educator made a presentation and distributed resources to the Correctional Department head nurses for the Central Region.
  - A list of large businesses in the area continues to be developed for PUSH Plans.
- **Chickahominy**
  - Goochland, New Kent, Hanover, Charles City Schools sent PanFlu planning templates and personal preparedness brochures.
  - Charles City Emergency Coordinator and District PanFlu Coordinator making plans to reach citizens of Charles City with PanFlu message.
  - Memorial Regional Medical Center's Infection Control Nurse, District Pan Flu Coordinator and District Epidemiologist participated in Pan Flu Planning session.
  - PanFlu Coordinator collaborating with Educators based in Charles City and New Kent Counties planning PanFlu Train-the-Trainer program.
- **Cumberland Plateau**
  - Planner and Epidemiologist reviewed the CPHD All Hazards Emergency Operations Plan (EOP), Pandemic Influenza (Pan Flu) Plan, Continuity of Operations Plan, Staff Visit Checklist and other relevant documents to prepare for Central Office, Southwest Region, and Northwest Region Offices' visit.
  - Nurse Manager met with the Dickenson County School Health Advisory Board to discuss Pan Flu concerns, CPHD's preparedness efforts, personal protection, and infection control protocols.
  - Central and Region Offices conducted an assessment of the District's Emergency Preparedness Response Programs, which ensured the District had developed and maintained an EOP and Pan Flu Plan followed by discussions of the District's and State's Pan Flu efforts, expectations, program directions, and initiatives for 2007.
- **Henrico**
  - Director met with two local private medical practices and discussed PanFlu preparedness.
  - Planner compiled and submitted a budget request for carryover funds from the CDC PanFlu Phase I grant.
  - Epidemiologist sent the weekly Avian Flu Update to local hospital ICPs, Richmond International Airport Emergency Planner and other local partners.
- **Lenowisco**
  - Planner and Epidemiologist completed CERT training for MECC.
  - Planner attended Crisis Management Task Force Meeting for Wise County.
  - Planner and Epidemiologist attended the Epi/Planner meeting at the New River Health District.
- **Norfolk**
  - District participated in the Hampton Roads Utilities Committee meeting, which included an update on PanFlu.

- District Medical Reserve Corps Coordinator has researched volunteer training modules with concentrations on PanFlu. One of these modules is being included as an elective in the Norfolk MRC volunteer training manual. This is in addition to the ARC materials.
- Planner attended a Disease Outbreak Readiness Seminar, which presented information on modeling programs that examine communication channels within the city. SARS was used as a reference model, exploring potential compliance-related isolation and quarantine issues during an event.
- **Piedmont**
  - A draft MOU has been created between PHD and Central Virginia Health Services, Inc. to use CVHS facilities and staff to supplement the mass dispensing capabilities in Buckingham, Prince Edward, and Charlotte counties. Talks are underway with other community health centers with offices located within PHD to explore the possibility of MOU's with those as well.
  - The Piedmont Health District met with Dillwyn Correctional Center to discuss multiple preparedness issues. These issues included all-hazards emergency planning regarding mass dispensing of medications to inmates, staff, and family of staff. Discussions were also held regarding use of Correctional Center facilities and equipment to aid in the mass dispensing efforts for the surrounding jurisdictions. The goal of these discussions is the completion of a memorandum of understanding between the Piedmont Health District and Dillwyn Correctional Center.
  - The Piedmont Health District is also working on a MOU with Central Virginia Health Services, Inc. to use their facilities and staff to supplement the mass dispensing capabilities in the three counties in which they operate.
- **Pittsylvania Danville**
  - Educator provided a PanFlu program for the Women's Missionary Union at Edgehill Baptist Church.
  - Educator preparing PanFlu educational posters that will be placed on all City of Danville public transportation buses.
- **Prince William**
  - Met with hospitals, Social Services, Fire and Rescue and other entities to discuss alternative care sites. The discussion included alternative care site level of care, staffing, supplies and protocol.
  - Decision made to build Community Leadership to participate in engaging community to improve preparedness and response capabilities.
  - Completed AAR from Mass Vaccination Clinic.
  - Preparing CDC funding request to improve PWHC EOC for a pandemic event that includes technology, training, and planning.
  - Reviewing Deliverables for MMRP Plan to ensure pandemic response.
  - Communicating with NVCC about pandemic planning for local campuses.
- **Rappahannock/Rapidan**
  - Director, Educator, Planner and Epidemiologist met for the second time with School Superintendents within the District to discuss Pandemic Influenza planning and preparedness for schools.
  - Educator, Planner and Epidemiologist held the second meeting of the PanFlu Public Information Subcommittee.
  - Director provided PPE training, including protection of healthcare workers during PanFlu event, to the Chickahominy Regional Medical Reserve Corps

- Educator continues to research PanFlu information and is developing PanFlu educational brochures, cards and booklets for both the public and responders.
- **Roanoke/Alleghany**
  - Educator attended a meeting in Salem and discussed PanFlu planning efforts with the City Manager, City Risk Manager, Superintendent of Schools, Director of Student Services, Fire Chief, City Emergency Manager and Rescue Squad member.
  - Educator presented on PanFlu to the staff at Good Samaritan Hospice in Roanoke.
- **Southside**
  - Educator is working with school PTAs to give presentation and solicit volunteers for mass clinics.
  - Planner working with evaluators on Mass Flu Vaccination exercise AAR.
  - Ordered several copies of "Why don't we do it our sleeve?" video for presentations.
  - Educator continues to contact local civic and faith-based groups to schedule PanFlu presentations.
  - Planner and Educator continue solicitation for funds from NACCHO and local hospitals.
  - Educator continues to research info for handouts on PanFlu and disease transmission.
- **Virginia Beach**
  - Long-term care facility meeting, November 8<sup>th</sup>. Pandemic Influenza Brochures, hand sanitizers, and training booklets on how to plan for a pandemic were distributed to attendees. Target Audience: Long-term care facility administrators.
  - Presentation at Baycliff Civic League @ Alanton Elementary School. Baycliff plans to include Basic Infection Control in December's newsletter for residents to view.
  - Conducted Community Forums at Lynnhaven Cove, Princess Anne Library, and Seatack Recreation Center. Issues addressed included: differences between seasonal influenza and pandemic influenza, basic infection control, and planning. The VDH Pandemic Flu video was also shown. We continue to schedule these forums.
  - Hygiene Stations distributed to City Departments.
  - Presentation at Housing & Neighborhood Preservation meeting.
  - Pandemic Influenza Committee Meeting.
  - Hand-Washing Campaign Poster Contest. Posters judged and winners announced. Winning poster reproduced and distributed throughout Virginia Beach.
  - Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Booklets. Booklets were mailed to medical offices throughout Virginia Beach.
- **Western Tidewater**
  - Epidemiologist, Planner and MRC Coordinator attended the official kickoff of the Franklin/Southampton PanFlu Planning Committee. Others in attendance were the City Manager, Executive Secretary of City Manager, City Council member, Emergency Managers of Franklin and Southampton County, Sheriff of Southampton County, CEO of Southampton Memorial Hospital, and the Safety Officer of Southampton Memorial Hospital. The next meeting is January 10, 2007.
- **West Piedmont**
  - Planner presented a PanFlu update to the Henry County Board of Supervisors. The update covered the status of the Henry-Martinsville Pandemic Flu Planning Group and which organizations and agencies are involved. It also gave the Board some ideas as to what to be planning for in the event of a pandemic.
  - Planner delivered PanFlu literature to the Henry County Sheriff's Office for distribution to County law enforcement personnel.